



Democratic State of the Union Response Center

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DEMOCRATS FIGHT FOR NEW JOBS WITH GOOD BENEFITS FOR AMERICAN WORKERS

Democrats are fighting for the millions of Americans who do not have a job, or do not have health insurance or who have seen their retirement savings disappear over the past year. We are working to strengthen America's economy by creating new jobs with strong benefits and ensuring that good jobs go to American workers rather than overseas. As Republicans continue to protect the wealthy corporate interests that put them in power, Democrats are putting American families first.

Republican policies cost America jobs. Over the last three years the Republicans have lost almost 3 million jobs and added at least \$3 trillion to the national debt. Today, 8.4 million people are out of work and President Bush has the worst record of job creation since the Great Depression, including a loss of 2.6 million manufacturing jobs. More people are looking longer to find work and 5 million people are working part time because they can't find a full-time job.

Record surpluses turned into record deficits. Democrats believe that fiscal responsibility is the way to create prosperity for America. Under Democratic leadership, the budget was balanced for the first time in a generation; and 22 million new jobs were created. But the Bush Administration has squandered that legacy, turning a \$5.6 trillion surplus into a \$3 trillion deficit.

American families are working harder for less. Average families have seen their household income fall and more than 2.4 million Americans have lost their health insurance since President Bush took office. American workers should be able to depend on their elected officials to help them achieve their financial dreams, not jeopardize their financial security.

Democrats want to create jobs now. Democrats want to create jobs now by encouraging manufacturers to hire new workers and providing relief to small businesses – the engine of our economy. Democrats will also pump money into the economy by extending unemployment benefits and investing in highways and education.

Democrats are working to create manufacturing jobs. Manufacturing job losses continue to mount and Republicans have done nothing to stop the bleeding. Democrats are pushing a bipartisan solution to help manufacturers create good paying jobs here in the United States. But Republicans are instead pushing a bill that would give tax breaks to multinational corporations to move jobs overseas.

Democrats are fighting to help people find jobs. Extending and expanding unemployment benefits not only helps those still looking for work, but also improves economic growth and creates jobs. Putting money into the hands of those who will spend it boosts consumer spending and business investment. Economists have estimated that each \$1.00 of unemployment benefits leads to \$1.73 in economic growth.

Democrats are fighting to protect overtime. Democrats are working to block the Bush Administration's proposal to deny overtime pay to more than eight million Americans. Because of incredible Democratic unity, Congress has told the Bush Administration to stop pursuing changes to overtime regulations that are a part of their continuing assault on working families. But the Republican leadership is cutting backroom deals to get this provision passed.